

Whispering Lake Grove, ADF

Samhain

Nov 7, 2010

6:00 PM

PROCESSION (*All in song*)

(Jim)

Musical Signal- *A drum beats 3x3 times.*

(Artos)

INVOCATION FOR INSPIRATION

In song (Carrion)(Grollwynn)

It's The Blood of the Ancients

That Runs Through Our Veins

And The Forms Pass

But The Circle of Life Remains

by Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy

Repeat until all participants have entered the ritual space. (Isaura & Maggie) Participants will be censured and asperged as they enter the space. Those censuring an asperging will follow the processional into the space and cense and asperge the place.

ATTUNEMENT (Carrion)

The following attunement was inspired by Ian Corrigan's book, Sacred Fire Holy Well.

Joining our hands and closing our eyes, take a few deep, cleansing breaths (**pause 4 count**). We now stand together, upon the land, beneath the sky, surrounded by the sea. The veil between this world and the Otherworld thins as we prepare to enter sacred time (**pause 4 count**).

As we begin our journey this night, we gather together upon the rocky Western Shore of Ireland. Hear the waves crash against the shore, feel the sun on your face and smell the salty air (**pause**). Turn your attention skyward. For above us burn the primal fires, the power necessary to generate new life from death. Reaching far beyond the sky into the heavens, through the clouds and the stars and beyond the sun feel the warm, light and ordered energy of the heavens. Draw upon the fires of creation. Feel this fire as it illuminates the cauldron within your head, the cauldron within your heart and finally the cauldron of your belly. Let the radiance of the sky power be your torchlight as we enter the Otherworldly realm of the dead.

Once more you stand firm upon the shoreline of this ancient land of mystery and magic, the home to many of our ancestors. Hear their voices upon the waves as they call to you. You cross the threshold of the shoreline and enter the waters before you. They are cool and refreshing. You lay upon your back in the water, enjoying the sun upon you face, floating freely upon the gentle rocking of the waves. As you float cradled by the waters they begin to pool and gently swirl. You begin to drift downward, yet you are not submerged, as the water level begins to drop below the surface of the land. You continue to float upon the waters as you descend into a cavern within the earth itself. You notice the rocky earthen walls on either side of you that rise to meet the sky. As you descend

you see the bones of once living creatures in the earth, the roots of trees and plants, and small underground streams cascade forming waterfalls down the edge of the walls of the cavern.

As you descend deeper within the cavern faces appear in the waters around you and on the walls on either side of you. The faces of those you have loved and those that have loved you: your grandmothers and grandfathers, dearest friends and family. They welcome you as you as the waters slow their descent and once more begin to pool. You are aware that you have arrived within and underground chamber underneath the waters. You continue to float upon the waters of the pool. Open your mind to the ancient wisdom within these waters. Fond memories and faces of the past return to you. Listen to the wisdom as you float upon the waters of the lake of recollection, the waters of the well of memory. They contain all that ever was, is and all that will be.

Allow these waters to enter you being and merge with the power of the sky. The fires of the heavens ignite the waters of the earth within you and you become one with the cosmos. Feel the primal powers of fire and water as they surge through you. Your heart beats with the very pulse of the worlds (*pause 8 count*). As the powers of earth and sky surge through you the waters begin to swirl in the pool once more and begin to ascend out of the chamber and through the cavern, gently returning you toward the surface of the Earth. As you ascend, the cavern is illuminated with the radiance of the heavens and its walls reveal all that is to be. See the seeds in the earth that begin to sprout, the roots of the trees as begin to grow and nourish the trees. See the spirits of new life all around you, as well as the potential within you.

You reach the surface of the waters and gently the waves cradle you. You stand and once again cross the threshold to the shoreline.

Know that the fire and water that surges through our veins connects us to the land beneath our feet, to the sky above our heads and to the water that surrounds us. It connects us to the spirits of nature, to our Ancestors and to our Gods, linking this world forever to the Otherworld.

As we open our eyes let us be one in this space!

OPENING PRAYERS

(Isaura)

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother & Sky Father

Our bodies are supported and sustained by the Mother of the Land; Created of her potential to which we shall return.

Our spirits are supported and sustained by the Father of the Clear Sky; Potential given life thru his spark.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, you cradle our Ancestors, preserves their memory and renew the lives of your children, know that we remember and honor your gifts.

An offering of white bread and incense is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Purpose of the Ritual (Grollwynn)

Tonight the living has gathered to welcome the Dead;
Honoring their memory and remembering their deeds.
We shall sing their praise and make our sacrifice;
Seeking their wisdom in return.

For the Feast of Samhain is upon us!
Let us honor death as we reflect upon the past,
Celebrate life as we consider the present,
and look to the future with anticipation and hope.

May all who gather be welcome among us!

THE SACRED CENTER

Weaving the Druids Mist (Raven)

RECREATING THE COSMOS

All participants will sing the following chant as the words below are spoken by an officiant:

Chant: Through Time and Tide

*Through time and tide, through waters wide
By blood and bone, by stock and stone
By breath and breeze, by fire that frees*

(Carrion)

In the beginning and so too in the end; there was but the fires of the Sky and the waters of the Earth and between them a vast emptiness. Now, within the vast emptiness the illuminating power of the heavens and the creative potential of the Earth converged. The fires of the Sky ignited the waters of the Earth and new life began to stir. Through the union of fire and water came forth the worlds, the realms and the Mighty Kindred, nine holy things, which would create all others.

To Land, Sea & Sky

The waters support and surround us.
From the Underworld below,
Sacred waters flow within this well.

Offering of silver is made to the well.

The land extends about us.
Within the Middleworld,
Sacred tree grow within this place.

Offering of water from the well and incense is made.

The sky stretches above us.
From the Heavens above,
Sacred spark burn within this fire.

Offering of incense is made to the fire.

Let us pray with a good fire.
May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.
Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith, modified by Raven & Carrion Mann.

OPENING THE GATES

(Raven)

Weaver of the Gray Mists; Warder of the Way.
Join us at the center; walk with us this day.

(Carrion)

Rider of the Maned Waves; Otherworldly Guide.
Hold the gates before us as we stand in sacred time.

(Grollwynn)

Magician of the Shoreline merge your magic with my own.
Part your mist before us; Great King without a throne.

Irish whiskey is offered to Manannan

Manannan MacLir, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, accept our offering!

(Grollwynn) Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

All in song

*Gatekeeper open the portals,
Between the Gods and mortals,
Power freely flows, as our magic grows!*

Repeat chant three times

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Opening the Gates

(Raven)

Manannan let us stand at the center of all worlds!
Sacred Fires of the heavens burn within this place.

(Carrion)

Primal Waters of the earth flow within this place.

(Grollwynn)

World Tree joining earth and sky, grow within this place.

(Raven)

Striking a sigil over the fire.

Let this fire carry our praise and sacrifice to the Shining Ones.

(Carrion)

Striking a sigil over the well.

Let this well carry our praise and sacrifice to the Mighty Dead.

(Grollwynn)

Striking a sigil upon the tree.

Let this tree connect the worlds as they become one in this place.

By the land before us!

(Carrion)

By the seas about us!

(Raven)

By the sky above us!

(Raven)(Carrion)(Grollwynn)

Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

(Raven)(Carrion)(Grollwynn)

We now stand at the center of all worlds!

KINDRED OFFERINGS

(Grollwynn)

Now that the world of the living and that of the spirit are one, we call out from the crossroads to the Mighty Kindred!

All in song 3Xs

Let our voices arise on the fire!

Let our voices resound in the deep!

Let the Kindred accept what we offer!

As we honor the old ways we keep!

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(Jim)

Allies of the Middle Realm!

Bright and shining messengers to the Otherworld

Elves, Sprites, and Faeries of the Hollow Hills

Protectors of this sacred ground.

Spirits of Nature, join as we honor our Ancestors!

Bird Seed is offered.

Noble Ones, accept our offering!

All: Noble Ones, accept our offering!

(Isaura)

Eldest and Brightest of the Realm Above!

Bringers of life, death and rebirth.

Deities of Might, of Magic and those of the Mist.

Blessed Children of Danu!

Shining and Chthonic Ones, join us as we honor our Ancestors!

Oil is offered.

Shining and Chthonic Ones, accept our offering!

All: Shining and Chthonic Ones, accept our offering!

(Carrion) Let us raise our voices in song as we welcome our Ancestors home.

Mothers and Fathers of Old

From far beyond this mortal plan

Mothers and Fathers of Old

We pray that you return again

Mothers and Fathers of Old

To Share with us the mysteries

And secrets long untold

Of the ancient ways we seek to reclaim

Mothers and Fathers of Old

Repeat 3X (words and music by Sable)

HONORING THE BEINGS OF THE OCCASION

Ancestors **(Carrion)**

Let us now call through the mist and deep within the Otherworld as we awaken the spirits of the dead.

O Ancient Ones and most recent dead, we fill our heart and minds with your memory,

hear our voices,

heed our call,

join us at our hearth,

let our sacred fire's light be your torch in the darkness.

Hard Cider and Apples are offered.

Ancestors, accept our offering!

All: Ancestors, accept our offering!

Three skulls and three candles of red are placed in a triangle pointing west and before them are special offerings to the Ancestors. Runes are also laid upon the table. The following words are spoken over each skull as the candle is lit and offerings made to the dead.

The first candle is lit saying:

Immortal image of the dead, symbol of ancient wisdom, bones of our Ancestors. Let the flame of our hearth's fire, waken the well of remembrance.

The second candle is lit saying:

House of spirit, keeper of memory, image of the skull. Let the flame of our hearth's fire, awaken the wisdom of the ages.

The third candle is lit saying:

Dome of the heavens, shrine of knowledge, sacred head, let the flame of our hearth's fire, awaken the voice of the dead. Ancient Wise and Beloved Dead we have prepared for you this house of spirit. May you see clearly through these images before us and may your voice be heard through these tools.

Ancestors, share you wisdom with us!

(Inspired by Ian Corrigan's Question the Skulls)

(Carrion) Our Ancestors have traveled far to be with us this night. See the face of the dead as they fill our hall, hear their whispers, feel their presence. As the Ancestors assemble this night let us bring forth our praise and sacrifice for them.

Non-physical personal praise offerings will be given at this time.

(Raven)

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor the Ancestors, as they walk among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive their guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to the Mighty Dead!
As we make our final sacrifice.
The final sacrifice is prepared.

FINAL SACRIFICE

A slow drumbeat begins. Other participants will take up shakers, and other instruments or participate in dancing and intoning to raise magical energy for the Beings of the Occasion. The Seer will collect and direct the energy raised through the gate and communicate with the beings of the occasion. He/she will take an omen by drawing either hU'ath, representing the need to continue or Coll represent our gift for a gift and the acceptance of our sacrifice. The assembled company will raise energy until the final sacrifice has been accepted. The Seer will then conclude the energy raising with "Our Sacrifice has been Accepted" followed by Ancestors, give us the waters!"

THE OMEN

The Seers takes up the blessing cups and infuses them with the power returning from the gateway. Once the blessings have been infused he/she will raise the cups and pronounce: "Behold the Waters of Life" all assembled will echo "Behold the Waters of Life". *The waters will be passed.* An officiate will then say that these cups contain the blessings of the Ancestors. *Do you wish to receive the blessings of the Ancestors?* (Participant's response.) *Do you wish to receive the blessings of the Ancestors?* (Participant's response.) *Do you wish to receive the blessings of the Ancestors?* (Participant's response.) Then let us share all they have to offer us.

As the blessings are passed the Bard will lead the chant, "Power of the Spirit". *Power of the Spirit (all males assembled) Females will echo Growing in Me, Flowing through me, Shining through me.* While the blessings are being passed the Seers will be taking an omen to determine our blessings.

The omen will be pronounced by Raven for the folk. Each of the three ogham drawn will be pronounced one at a time. The first will be pronounced, the meaning and interpretation given. Carrion will then lead the company to intone the ogham. The second will be pronounced, followed by its meaning and then intonation etc. Any final interpretation will be offered by the Seer.

THE WORK

(Grollwynn)(Carrion)

Participants are given an opportunity to receive a personal message from the Ancestors by visiting the Shrine and the House of Spirit the Grove Seer will divine the nature of the wisdom using a symbol set. While participants visit the shrine and receive their wisdom if they wish, the entire assembled company will sing the following chant.

*Look into the well of memory
Look into the well of time
Look into the well of ages
I am yours, You are mine.*

*Listen to the ancient stories
Listen to the ancient songs
Listen to the ancient wisdom
I go on, You go on*

*Deep within your hearts are beating
Deep within are hearts we know
Our descendants will remember
Our love flows, Your love flows.
(Words & music by Emerald)*

THANKING THE BEINGS

(Carrion) Mighty Ones of blood and spirit. Those who inspire and guide us in our lives. Beloved Dead we thank you for the wisdom you have shared with us. (a final token is offered upon the fire) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Mighty Dead, we thank you!
All: Mighty Dead, we thank you!

(Raven) *Raven will close the House of Spirit at this time.*

(Isaura) Shining Ones, Eldest and Brightest. May you continue to guide and bless us as we walk this path. Shining Ones, known and unknown, we thank you for your blessings and guidance this eve. (a final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Shining Ones, we thank you!
All: Shining Ones, we thank you!

(Jim) Noble Spirits of land, sea and sky. Companions who aid and guide us in our journey. Noble Spirits, we thank you for sharing your knowledge and protection. (a final token is offered)

May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Noble Spirits, we thank you!

All: Noble Spirits, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

(Raven) Manannan MacLir, Weaver of Gray Mists; we thank you for your protection and guidance as we have walked between the worlds this night. (an apple is offered upon the fire) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Manannan, we thank you!

(Raven)

Manannan Mac Lir, Great Guardian of the Threshold, we now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

(Raven)

Let the fire burning towards the heavens once more become but flames.

(Carrion)

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld once more become but water.

(Grollwynn)

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become but wood.

By the land before us!

(Carrion)

By the seas about us!

(Raven)

By the sky above us!

(Raven)(Carrion)(Grollwynn)

Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

(Isaura) Great Mother of this Land and Father of the Clear Sky, may you continue to bring new life to this world (a final is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you!

(Carrion) We now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain us. All offerings that remain are burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.

STATEMENT OF ENDING

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

(Carrion) Children of Earth and Sky, join me once more as we close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth (pause for a 2 count).

As the mighty ash is part of the forest, we are all part of the great circle of life. Remember the blessings we have received together this night (pause).

As we stand between Earth and Sky
Once more feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth
Know that below us flows the primal waters.
Once more feel the coolness of the waters that have pooled within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. *(pause 4 count)*
Reaching high into the sky above
Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens.
Know that above us burns the primal fires.
Once more feel the warmth of the fires that have illuminated your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 4 count)*
Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky surging through you, as they have given strength and energy to your being. *(pause 4 count)*
Keep of this power what you need, sending what remains forth from our beings into the Great Lake (pause). See this energy heal and protect her as we conclude our worship.
May all that is be what was, that it may be again!

(Jim)

Musical Signal- *A bell rings 9 times.*

All: We will keep the faith until the sky falls upon us and crushes us; until the earth opens and swallows us; until the seas arises and overwhelm us.

Recessional Song

(Carrion) Once more may we now raise our voices in song as we leave our Nemeton.

It's The Blood of the Ancients

That Runs Through Our Veins

And The Forms Pass

But The Circle of Life Remains

by Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy

Special Thanks To:

All who participated and shared in our Samhain celebration.

Ian Corrigan for the inspiration to write the opening meditation and for the ritual spell.

Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy for the chant the Blood of the Ancients.

Liafal for the Gatekeeper Chant

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Sable for the chant Mothers and Fathers of Old

Abbi Spinner for the chant Back to the River

Emerald of Sassafras Grove ADF for the chant The Well of Memory

*Whispering Lake Grove, ADF
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*Ritual text written by
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(Unless otherwise credited)*

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